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After such a declaration it is not surprising to find the author saying that statistics can never decide the question of the freedom of the will. The "mean error" will always allow for individual freedom. The so-called moral statistics must be handled with great care. We have statistics of murders, but not of murderous intents or desires; of church membership, but not of real religious disposition. The recent attempts of Italian anthropologists (Lombroso, *et al.*) to make crime an outcome of physiological condition (*i.e.* the criminal irresponsible) are shown to rest on inadequate statistical foundations.¹ I wonder what Westergaard would say of some recent economic statistics in this country in regard to the distribution of wealth.

R. M. S.

Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv. Edited by Dr. GEORG VON MAYR. Year 1890; Half-volume I. Tübingen, Verlag der H. Laupp'schen Buchhandlung, 1890. — 8vo, 415 pp.

Dr. von Mayr was for many years head of the Bavarian bureau of statistics and professor in the University at Munich. He afterwards entered the imperial service and was engaged in reorganizing the finances of Alsace-Lorraine, with headquarters at Strasburg. He is well and favorably known through his writings and especially through his little book on vital statistics, *Die Gesetzmässigkeit im Gesellschaftsleben*. He brings, therefore, to the work of editing a special journal of statistical science experience as a practical statistician, administrator, teacher and writer.

The new journal is not in any sense a popular one. It is intended for the statistician, the administrator and the student of social science. It will be a repertory of thorough studies by specialists of the various questions connected with statistical method and research. The American professor of political economy and social science will often turn to its pages for information, and it would be well if the practical statistician and administrator could find time to do the same.

A brief notice of the principal articles in this first half-volume will be useful as indicating the range of topics and the character of the writers to be expected in the *Archiv*, and may serve to attract the attention of some who would otherwise be inclined to pass it by as only one more German technical journal. The introductory essay by Dr. von Inama-Sternegg, Professor in the Vienna University and Chief of the Austrian Central Statistical Commission, is on "Instruction in Statistics." It traces the history of theoretical statistics, and describes the position statistics occupy in the universities and higher technical schools and also in the middle and lower schools of Europe. There are regular courses in

¹ Lombroso gives statistics of 50 criminals of whom one per cent were flat-headed! Westergaard, page 281.

statistics at pretty much all the German and Austrian universities ; and in Italy of late years the study of statistics has been introduced into both the universities and the commercial and technical schools. In many cases statistics form part of the state examination for entrance into the civil service. In the middle and lower schools of Europe statistics are not taught directly as a separate science, but indirectly, in connection with physical and commercial geography, political and social history, *etc.* The second article, by Dr. von Mayr himself, treats of "Statistics and the Administration," and gives many wise hints regarding the proper method of collecting statistics and of interesting the ordinary servants of the administration in their collection. Three other articles, on the "Element of Time in Statistics," the "Latest Methods of Collecting Statistics of Population" and "Agricultural Statistics," are more technical in their nature, but they are exhaustive and scientific, and really essential to any one who pretends either to collect or to criticize those kinds of statistics. Of more general interest is Dr. Hausmann's "Statistics of German Universities," which seeks to analyze and explain the recent enormous increase in the number of students (in 1876-77 there were 17,464 ; in 1888, 29,190 students) ; and Dr. Bruchner's "Development of Urban Population in Germany." Students of penology and general sociology will find the "Introduction to Criminal Statistics," by Professor von Scheel, who is also attached to the German imperial bureau of statistics, extremely lucid and helpful, if they desire to know just what these much-abused criminal statistics show and what they do not and cannot be made to show. Professor von Kaufmann's conscientious struggle with the "State and Local Finances of the United States" is unsuccessful, partly from the inherent difficulties of the subject and partly because he has used old and imperfect sources of information. Dr. Seligman's *Finance Statistics of the American Commonwealths* would have helped him out of many of his difficulties if he had been acquainted with it, and a few months' delay would have given him the figures from the census of 1890 instead of those ten years old. A hundred and fifty pages of book reviews, the annotated law for taking the German census of December 1, 1890, and a list of all the statistical bureaus in Germany, complete this monument of German industry.

I have enumerated at some length the contents of this first number of the *Archiv* in order to introduce it to the American scholar and publicist. For some years in our historical and economic writing we have been much indebted to the Germans for both method and material. What the Germans sow we have the good fortune to reap. May the German influence make itself felt in the deeper and more scientific treatment of those statistical problems lying at the basis of so many of our social questions !

RICHMOND MAYO SMITH.